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The Flat Hat

The twice-weekly student newspaper of the College of William and Mary — Est. 1911

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FLATHATNEWS.COM

RIAA no longer suing students

25 of 27 suits against College students settled

By BERTEL KING, JR.
Flat Hat Insight Editor

Twenty-five of the 27 College of William and Mary students sued by the RIAA last year have settled their cases, Liz Kennedy, a spokesperson from the RIAA said.

Of the remaining two, one student could not be identified and the other case is currently pending.

Recently, upon greater support from various internet service providers (ISPs) around the country, the RIAA decided on a new approach toward identifying students who were in violation of copyright laws.

"During this past summer, we began discussions with New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, who suggested that now was the time to take our practice of last resort — lawsuits — and replace that form of deterrence with productive engagement by the ISP community in the form of graduated response programs," said Mitch Bainwol, Chairman and CEO of the RIAA.

Now that ISPs are more willing to work with the RIAA, the trade group is pursuing the creation of more effective means of cracking down on illegal music downloading and sharing. Possible tactics range from alerting suspicious users to cutting off their internet service.

"I think the RIAA's change in strategy is a positive development," said Jim Heller, director of the Wolf Law Library and professor of law at the Marshall-Wythe

See RIAA page 3

HE'S NO SUPERMAN



FUAD BOHSALI — THE FLAT HAT

Bill Lawrence '90, the creator of the popular television sitcom "Scrubs," visited campus Wednesday and Thursday. He attended several theater classes and talked with a large audience last night in the Sadler Center Commonwealth Auditorium. "When you're 40, and you come back here thinking you're going to drink beers like you did when you were 20, the answer is you can't," he said. For an interview, see page 6.

College to drop dorm phones

ResLife survey found few use landlines

By IAN BRICKEY
Flat Hat Staff Writer

Can you hear me now? For those using dorm phones, the answer will soon be no.

In an e-mail sent on Monday, Information Technology Chief Information Officer Courtney Carpenter and Director of Residence Life Deb Boykin informed students that starting this summer, automatic telephone service to dorm rooms will be discontinued.

A request to IT can be made in order to activate lines. A fee, tentatively set at \$50, will be instated.

"We're not ending [phone service]," Carpenter said. "Lines just won't be on by default when you move in."

"We decided on this around the end of last semester," Carpenter added. "We've been talking about this for two years."

In a 2006 survey conducted by the Office of Residence Life, 92 percent of students at the College indicated that their cellular phones were their primary phones.

"We sort of learned that a majority of students didn't have telephones or set up their voicemail boxes and weren't utilizing all the features," Boykin said. "It didn't make sense [to continue the service]."

As the survey indicated, most students at the College will not be affected

See PHONES page 4

On Road to Richmond, students become lobbyists

35 students talk funding with the General Assembly

By ALEX McGRATH
Flat Hat Staff Writer

RICHMOND, Va. — Thirty-five students struggled out of bed in the middle of the night to represent their school before the legislators of Virginia yesterday in Richmond. The group spent all of Thursday morning putting a face to the College of William and Mary.

Students who participated in the annual Road to Richmond lobbying trip first met with delegates, senators and their staffers over breakfast at the Virginia State Library. They then walked to the General Assembly building where they observed and participated in the lobbying process. Undergraduates from each class, and even a few graduate students, participated.

Sen. Tommy Norment (R-3rd District), who represents Williamsburg, greeted the students at the GA building and described the importance of their mission.

"This is not a waste of time," he said. "It is so important that the legislators put faces to these issues. You guys are the important faces."

Many of the issues facing the College this year result from the broad economic crises now gripping the state and the country. While everyone conceded that the state contribu-

tion to the College will be cut by at least 15 percent, issues such as high tuition, the proportion of out-of-state students and projects like the Eminent Scholar Program remain hot topics affecting both the College and the state budget.

Despite the controversial issues facing the college, the priority was not to debate these issues with legislators. The students were prepared to do so, but the goal of the event was to encourage the legislators to think of students as real people instead of just facts and figures.

See RICHMOND page 3



ALEX McGRATH — THE FLAT HAT

Alan Kennedy-Shaffer J.D. '09 [RIGHT] talks with General Assembly Senator Tommy Norment (R-3rd District) about state funding for the College of William and Mary. Norment represents Williamsburg and surrounding areas.



ALEX McGRATH — THE FLAT HAT

Student Assembly President Valerie Hopkins '09 and other students from the College of William and Mary met with state legislators to discuss higher education funding and the faltering economy.

NEWS INSIGHT

News Editor Alex Guillén
News Editor Miles Hilder
fhnews@gmail.com

The Flat Hat

'Stabilitas et Fides'

25 Campus Center, The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA. 23185
Newsroom (757) 221-3281 — Advertising Dept. (757) 221-3283 — Fax (757) 221-3242

THE FLAT HAT — flathat.editor@gmail.com
NEWS — fhnews@gmail.com VARIETY — flathat.variety@gmail.com
SPORTS — flathatsports@gmail.com OPINIONS — fhopinions@gmail.com
ADVERTISING — flathatads@gmail.com

Austin Wright, *Editor-in-Chief*
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Brian Mahoney, *Online Editor*

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Corrections

The Flat Hat wishes to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Corrections may be submitted by e-mail to the section editor in which the incorrect information was printed. Requests for corrections will be accepted at any time.

Weather

FridaySaturdaySunday



High 50°Low 25°High 40°Low 31°High 55°Low 37°

Source: www.weather.com

News in Brief

Lecture to air on local TV channel

Williamsburg TV Channel 48, the city’s cable station, will broadcast “The Next President: Foreign Policy Challenges and Opportunities,” each day at 6 p.m. throughout February.

The broadcast is a recording of a presentation made by retired ambassador Thomas Pickering at the Wendy and Emery Reves Center’s Global Forum after the 2008 election. Pickering’s talk was part of the Wendy and Emery Reves Center’s Global Forum, an annual fundraising event with all proceeds supporting scholarships for College of William and Mary students studying abroad.

Non-city residents and those who do not have access to the city’s cable station may view the talk at the same times on the city’s website, www.williamsburgva.gov.

RAIL recognizes four students for service

The Recognizing Achievement in Leadership Outstanding Student Leader of the Month Award recipients for the fall 2008 semester are Dan Siepmann ’09 in September, Kae Lee ’09 and Geoff Abel ’09 in October, and Ryan Cerone ’10 in November, according to a College press release.

Siepmann manages College of William and Mary Radio station WCWM. Lee and Abel created the first All-Greek Formal, the best-attended event held by the Greek councils in the past five years. Cerone is working to bring a Light the Night event to campus to raise funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in memory of Jacob Nisbet ’10, who died of the disease last semester.

Groups fight cuts to planned cell towers

Five parties have filed suit against James City County’s Board of Zoning Appeals over its Dec. 18 decision to kill plans for two cell towers in an affluent neighborhood, according to the Daily Press. The nearly identical suits assert that the Board of Zoning Appeals erred when it overturned three previous decisions to allow the towers to be built.

The five parties include the county; Busch Properties, owner of the land where the towers would be built; Verizon Wireless and AT&T, the companies desiring to build the towers; and the Kingsmill Community Services Association, a group of neighborhood residents who favor the towers.

— by Bertel King, Jr.

Online-Only Content

STUDENT ASSEMBLY BULLETIN
SA passes two bills at first meeting

by Russ Zerbo

I just want to start off by stating that Tuesday’s Student Assembly meeting was insufferably boring.

With that said, two bills passed, the William and Mary in Richmond Internship Act, and the Serving Williamsburg II Act. They can both positively impact College students and the greater Williamsburg area.

THE PRESS BOX
Mike Potts ’08 works out with Cowboys

by Andrew Pike

According to The Dallas Morning News, the Dallas Cowboys worked out with former Tribe quarterback Mike Potts ’08 today at its Valley Ranch practice facilities. Potts, who signed a free agent deal with the Pittsburgh Steelers in April 2008, was among 19 players at the workout session.

FLATHATNEWS.COM

BEYOND THE 'BURG



COURTESY PHOTO — WIKIPEDIA.ORG
The Administration Building at Northwest Missouri State University.

School puts books on shelf

NMSU plans to cut costs by going to electronic textbooks

By AMEYA JAMMI
Flat Hat Insight Editor

Northwest Missouri State University is planning on eliminating hard-copy textbooks by partnering with publishers McGraw-Hill and Cengage to provide students with electronic textbooks.

“Publishers don’t have all textbooks online yet,” NMSU President Dean Hubbard said to the News Tribune. “But I would think, as a realistic measure, we could be totally out of the printed textbook business in three years.”

Hubbard told The Brown Daily Herald, Brown University’s student newspaper, that electronic textbooks cost “about 50 percent less than hard-copy texts.”

The university bought electronic textbooks for 500 students in 10 subjects ranging from algebra to music. Additionally, McGraw-Hill is making digital access codes of textbooks for up to 3,000 NMSU students.

The university is also providing laptops for its students so they can access the electronic textbooks and a smaller group will be using Sony E-book Readers. An older model of Sony electronic book readers was tested out in a pilot program last semester involving four classes and approximately

240 students.

“This is a tremendous attention-getter; it’s not as good an attention-holder,” Hubbard said to Wired Campus magazine about the Sony Reader, explaining that laptops would be better because they allow students to highlight, copy and paste text, or take interactive quizzes. They let professors add or remove material to the textbooks. Electronic textbooks also allow for textbooks to get free updates to new editions.

Rod Barr, an agriculture instructor at NMSU, who was part of the pilot program, said the university plans to let students choose between laptops, readers, and ipods.


“Not all students are the same and not all classes use textbooks in the same way,” Barr said to the Post Bulletin.

The University System of Ohio has partnered with CourseSmart to provide students with electronic textbooks, but unlike NMSU, it is not insisting that students switch to electronic books.

“I would like it if we didn’t have textbooks at all anymore,” Mike Jenkins, a sophomore at NMSU, said to Wired Campus. He used electronic textbooks in his history class last fall. “The e-book is so convenient, and you don’t have to carry all those books around.”


STREET BEAT

How do you feel about losing the landline in your dorm room?




“I believe it is one less expense for the college.”

Jessica Jackson '09




“I wonder how cutting the landlines will affect the businesses in the area and their relationship with the students on campus.”

James Jackson '09



“I didn’t use the landlines until this year because my cell phone gets really bad reception in my room.”

Aaron Paloski '09



“I think some cell phone companies will need to put up new towers.”

Mara Rosenkrantz '09

— photos and interviews by Bertel King, Jr.

CAMPUS POLICE BEAT
Jan. 20 to Jan. 26



- Tuesday, Jan. 20** — An individual reported a stolen bicycle on the 400 block of Landrum Dr. The estimated value is \$50. **1**
- Thursday, Jan. 22** — An individual reported a stolen laptop and other personal items at the Integrated Science Center. The estimated value is \$1,500. **2**
- An individual reported stolen personal items at the Integrated Science Center. The estimated value is \$150. **2**
- An individual was arrested for alleged embezzlement on the 200 block of Ukrop Way. **3**
- Friday, Jan. 23** — An on-campus incident of sexual assault was reported anonymously to Sentara Regional Hospital. **4**
- Saturday, Jan. 24** — An individual reported a vandalized door handle at a frat house. The estimated damage is \$100. **4**
- An individual reported a stolen moped at Ludwell Apartments. The estimated value is \$2,500. **5**
- An individual reported a vandalized fence on the 200 block of Stadium Dr. The estimated damage is \$150. **6**
- Sunday, Jan. 25** — An individual reported a vandalized sign on the 600 block of Ukrop Way. The estimated damage is \$50. **7**
- Monday, Jan. 26** — An individual reported a stolen ID on the 600 block of Ukrop Way. The estimated value is \$20. **7**

— compiled by Bertel King, Jr.

This Week in
Flat Hat History

1924

The College library received a lecture notebook belonging to Hugh Mercer, class of 1794, containing abstracts given by professors from Blair’s Lectures, a popular textbook of the time. Mercer was the son of a Revolutionary War general who was killed during the Battle of Princeton.

1975

Tribe basketball defeated Virginia Tech for the first time in 12 years. Before half-time, the team was 17 points behind, but in the greatest comeback the College had seen in years, the team defeated Tech 76-69. A crowd of over 6,900 cheered the team on, and fans poured onto the court to celebrate the victory.

1981

The Student Association Council withdrew its support of a bill that would have placed a student representative on the Board of Visitors of Virginia state-supported schools. While endorsing the “general idea behind this legislation,” the SAC felt it was “impractical to implement.”

1997

Record snowfall earlier in the month forced the College to close for two days and resulted in a massive cleanup effort. The snow caused power outages, leaking pipes and roofs and equipment breakdown across campus.

—by Ameya Jammi

College students embark on annual ‘Road to Richmond’



ALEX McGRATH — THE FLAT HAT
Student Assembly Sen. Matt Beato '09 discusses issues facing the College

College launches new public policy program

By MEGHAN BOHN
Flat Hat Staff Writer

The Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy at the College of William and Mary was recently established, allowing students to earn both an undergraduate degree and a Masters of public policy in five years of coursework, rather than the normal six.

Eric Jensen, the director of public policy at the College, said that the new BA/MPP program will aid students who have a clear understanding of what they wish to do in the future.

“We know many students come in and already have a lot of credits, so we are trying to facilitate those who are prepared and know who and where they want to be.”

Students who have earned at least 90 credits are eligible to apply during the spring of their junior year. Jensen antici-

pates that admission will be highly competitive.

During the summer following junior year, admitted students will have the chance to conduct a research project with a faculty supervisor. This will be followed by enrollment in both undergraduate and MPP courses. After earning a bachelor's degree upon the completion of senior year, students will be accepted to the graduate school and will participate in a summer internship.

Jensen says that a formal announcement of the first admitted students to the five-year BA/MPP degree program will come soon.

Although a few other institutions, including the University of Maryland, Rutgers University and the University of Virginia offer equivalent degrees in the five-year time frame, Jensen said the College's new program is unique.

“One of the advantages of

William and Mary's program is the varied assortment of people present,” he said. “We offer a chance to participate and study with a mixed group of both undergraduate and graduate students.”

The majority of students on the accelerated degree path will receive merit-based financial assistance over the course their studies. Currently the Trice Fellowship will financially support at least one applicant who is concerned with international policy.

Jensen stressed that the fellowship is not limited to those studying international relations, and strongly encouraged those with any of a wide variety of interests in global issues to apply.

Because of tight scheduling requirements, Jensen advises students to consider their interest in this degree path as early as possible.

RICHMOND from page 1

By and large students appreciated their time at the General Assembly.

“It's a good opportunity for students to get involved beyond the college community,” Tara Safaie '12 said. “The fact that [the state government] let us come here is great.”

Eric Robinson '12 joined Road to Richmond after he received an e-mail advertising the event.

“It was a good chance to see the process — how college is funded — and to play a part in that process,” he said.

Student Assembly Vice President Kristin Slawter '09 stressed the importance of giving back to one's school.

“It's important to give back to the College. So many have given back and we need to continue to give back,” she said. “You are a part of school for life.”

Delegates William K. Barlow (D-64th District) — who represents Williamsburg — and Bill Janis (R-56th District) left a particularly profound impression on the students they encountered.

Barlow, whose son graduated from the College and the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, related his own college experience to students.

“We — my generation — didn't realize how good we had it,” Barlow said. Barlow attended Virginia Tech on a \$1,000 annual scholarship, which paid for all of his expenses. “You students are working hard, doing the best you can, and you should have the opportunities. The best investment we can make is in young people.”

While Barlow garnered respect with his anecdotes and rhetoric, Janis impressed students with his personality and

skill in languages. First speaking with one student in German, then another in Farsi, Janis displayed an interest in learning about the students.

Throughout the day, the issues took a backseat to personal interaction between the legislators and students. Brittany Constance '09, who organized the event, said the goal wasn't to discuss the issues, but to represent the College.

“We want them to know who the students are. The legislators enjoy getting to know them and what they are interested in,” Constance said. “It was a positive experience overall.”



ALEX McGRATH — THE FLAT HAT
Students met with state legislators in Richmond on Thursday.

Williamsburg launches community newsletter

By NANCY BLANFORD
Flat Hat Staff Writer

Kate Hoving, the City of Williamsburg's communications specialist, and representatives of the Student Assembly's Department of public affairs recently joined together to release an online newsletter for students at the College of William and Mary and residents of Williamsburg.

The city tried earlier in 2008 to reach out to College students by creating a City of Williamsburg Facebook page. Some students and city officials, however, felt that a more interactive method of communication would be more efficient.

“Originally we were talking about creating a newsletter ... but we wanted to have a conversation and not just talk at the students,” Hoving said. “We want it to be independent from the city to allow for more freedom in communication.”

Jill Olszewski '12, one of the SA undersecretaries of public affairs for the City of Williamsburg, is among the student representatives working with Hoving to develop the newsletter.

“Essentially, the newsletter will update the city on the various activities of the College, and likewise, the city will keep the College informed of the events and news on their end,” Olszewski said. “We all live in the same community, thus it is important to be aware of all the news and events that are occurring within it.”

The newsletter, which will be accessible to all College students and residents of Williamsburg, will either be weekly or bi-weekly. The newsletter should be running once an internet domain has been found to host it.

Hoving said that she would like to have the newsletter ready sometime between the end of January and Feb. 15.

RIAA settles with students at College; shifts tactics in nationwide fight against internet piracy

RIAA from page 1

School of Law. “[RIAA's] lawsuit campaign was pretty effective [in] letting people know that illegally downloading or sharing music could be costly. But as The Wall Street Journal noted back in December, the lawsuits were costly — not only in dollars, but in bad PR.”

Over the course of its campaign, the RIAA filed over 30,000 lawsuits, most were for a few thousand dollars.

Cases filed against students at the College were also for a few thousand dollars.

The Wall Street Journal reported last month that critics of the campaign believe that the lawsuits had a very small impact in slowing the act

of downloading illegal music from the internet. It also reported that the program was a public relations nightmare, with lawsuits targeting several single mothers, a deceased individual and a 13 year-old girl. One individual was sued for \$222,000 over a few songs she shared over Kazaa.

However, research shows that the downloading of illegal music is a major concern for the United States economy as a whole. A study conducted in 2007 by the Institute for Policy Innovation found that global music piracy causes \$12.5 billion in U.S. economic losses every year and is accountable for approximately 71,060 lost jobs in the United States.

“Students may not like hearing this, but downloading

or distributing music is often infringing,” Heller said. “If you bought a CD, you may legally copy songs for your own use. But as a general matter, you can't share those songs with others; fair use usually will not apply. Similarly, downloading songs from a [peer-to-peer] network is infringing unless the copyright owner has given his or her permission.”

A peer-to-peer (P2P) network is a computer network that connects several different computer together rather than the standard computer network in which all computers are connected to a common server.

A 2006 digital music study performed by NPD Research showed that college students, who make up only 10 percent

of total U.S. internet users, comprise a disproportionate 28 percent of the P2P-using population.

“I'm not a big fan of the RIAA, but I think they are tak-

ing the right step here,” Heller said. “Although lawsuits made people more aware of the consequences of illegally downloading or sharing music, the lawsuits didn't stop teenagers

and college students from doing that. Most young people think that they are immune from bad things happening to them, including being sued for infringement.”

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Don't miss out on this great opportunity to talk with employers interested in meeting and talking with you about jobs and internships.

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Sadler Center, 3rd Floor

A Career Fair for employment in Education. Open to teachers, school counselors, school psychologists, and administrators. All are welcome! No pre-registration! Just bring plenty of resumes and come prepared to interview.

* For a more information on both events, visit the Undergraduate Section of our website at www.wm.edu/career

Archaeology center celebrates its 20th anniversary of work

By **RACHEL PATTERSON**
The Flat Hat

The William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research recently celebrated its 20th year of research and projects throughout Virginia.

“We [had] an open house in our lab facility [in December to celebrate],” director Joe Jones said, in reference to WMCAR’s lab in the Campus Center basement. The center’s offices are located next to Wawa on Richmond

Road. “It was an opportunity to invite interested people ... to come see [it].”

The center’s archaeological work is known as cultural resource management, and involves surveying land that is scheduled for road development to see if it contains significant cultural resources. Determining significance can be difficult at the survey phase.

“It’s always some form of sampling,” Jones said. “You’re never getting the whole picture, you’re just digging holes and trying to interpret what’s going on

in between based on those samples.”

The center may begin a more intensive evaluation phase if the site appears significant. Then, if the site still appears archaeologically significant, the data recovery phase begins. At that point, the center recovers artifacts, creates maps and takes photographs.

“The general idea being, in crude terms, get the information out of the ground before the highway comes through,” Jones said.

The center has been involved in other projects, including documenting historic buildings and interpreting the results of archaeological research for the general public.

The archaeology done by the center is different from what is learned in the classroom, Jones said.

“We have to be prepared for the possibility of finding resources related to any or all periods of history,” Jones said. “We’re better off knowing a little about a lot of stuff than a lot about one particular thing.”

The center, which is technically a nonprofit consulting firm within the College, was founded in 1988 by Robert Hunter M.A. ’88, who wanted to continue Virginia Department of Transportation surveying after Colonial Williamsburg stopped taking VDOT contracts.

Throughout its history, the center has worked closely with the College’s anthropology department. Anthropology professor Martin Gallivan worked at the center from 1999 to 2003 before moving to academics.

“My job involved helping students at the College find educational and



RACHEL PATTERSON — THE FLAT HAT
One of the center’s roles is to document and interpret archaeological research for the public.

RACHEL PATTERSON — THE FLAT HAT
Artifacts like the one above could alter whether or not VDOT builds a road on a proposed site.

SA helps fund GA program, provides funding for community service

By **MASON WATSON**
Flat Hat Staff Writer

The Student Assembly senate passed a bill Tuesday night that will help fund a student internship program with the Virginia General Assembly.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Sarah Rojas ’10, allocates \$940 specifically to reimburse drivers who will transport students from Williamsburg to Richmond for a program conceived by Antonio Elias ’09, SA undersecretary of public affairs for Richmond.

Rojas said that the program, though technically academic, should be considered an SA concern.

“We’re doing this for the experience for the undergrads but also so we can get a big presence [in Richmond],” which she said would increase the College of William and Mary’s influence in the legislature.

Sen. Walter McClean ’09 supported the bill, noting that interns in Richmond

perform “a valuable service for [the] Student Assembly,” keeping the SA up to date with developments in the GA.

“I think that we’re getting more than our money’s worth,” McClean said.

Several senators questioned whether funding for the program was an SA responsibility.

“[The SA’s] task is to make things happen that would not happen otherwise without our subsidizing them,” Sen. Matt Pinsker ’09 said. “This internship to Richmond is going to happen with or without our financial assistance, so we’re not needed to make it happen.”

Pinsker also asked whether or not funding this program could commit the SA to funding future academic programs.

“I’m worried about the precedent we’re setting, choosing which [programs] are going to get subsidized,” he said.

Rojas responded to Pinsker’s concerns by noting that the bill provides for a one-time payment only.

“I don’t think that we’re setting a precedent that we’re sponsoring programs that are going to go on for years and years,” Rojas said.

The bill passed 19-0-2.

The senate also considered the Serving Williamsburg Act, sponsored by McClean, which would create a Williamsburg Service Fund with \$10,000 from the SA reserves. The money would provide funding for community service events organized by College students, provided that several guidelines are met.

Ideally, the large fund would persist through the foreseeable future — a prospect that McClean considers likely.

“I would almost guarantee that I will not be around when this runs out,” McClean said.

Sen. Steven Nelson ’10 expressed his concern that the fund might be used to provide for students attempting to fulfill their Alpha Phi Omega community service requirement.

McClean agreed, but said that he “would hate to see Campus Kitchens get removed from possibility because one of their members is in APO and is doing hours this way.”

The bill passed unanimously.

Several bills were presented for future consideration. The Opposition to Decreasing the Quality of the College Act, sponsored by Sens. Matt Beato, Michael Douglass ’11, Tom Flaherty ’12 and Ross Gillingham ’10 is a response to recent efforts in the GA to increase the percentage of in-state students at Virginia public universities.

The bill would require the sponsors, as well as SA President Valerie Hopkins ’09, to send letters opposing the GA legislation to the various members of the House of

Delegates Education Committee.

The Eating Disorder Program Promotion Act, sponsored by Sen. Brittany Fallon ’11, would allocate funds for the creation of pamphlets intended to educate students about available programs for dealing with eating disorders, as well as diagnoses for various eating disorders. These pamphlets would be available in the Health Center and throughout campus during “Love Your Body Week.”

The GPS and Steer Clear Repair Act, by Sens. Ben Brown ’11 and McClean, would give up to \$800 to buy three GPS devices to be kept in the Student Activities Office.

These devices would be available to students driving Student Activities vans. The bill would also request that the Student Activities Office promptly repair the Steer Clear vans.

The Collegiate Readership Act, sponsored by Douglass, was also introduced.



FILE PHOTO — THE FLAT HAT
McClean '09

Room phones removed due to budget cut concerns, says IT and ResLife

PHONES from page 1

by the removal of dorm telephone service, but there are some students who depend on their land-line for communication.

One such student, Joseph Casten ’09, does not have a cell phone and relies on his dorm

phone to talk to people. Casten said he would utilize other means of communication.

“I will just use instant messaging more,” Casten said.

To compensate for the removal of dorm room phones, phones will be installed in most dorm hallways. These telephones will

offer local service, as well as long distance service with an access code. Telephones will also remain active in resident assistant and area director offices.

“Students will still be able to have phone service,” Boykin said. “There will always be a phone for emergencies and calling for pizza.”

Besides the general lack of use among students, the cost of replacing aging telephone lines in dorms also contributed to the College’s decision to phase out

dorm telephone service.

“The lines [in the dorms] are old,” Boykin said. “Contracting for a new phone system, if we wire all new residences, would cost several hundred thousand dollars.”

Carpenter also said that the money saved by not re-wiring the dorms combined with other cost-saving measures would be used to improve other technologies at the College.

“We’re going to renegotiate our maintenance contract, and

any more saved [from these actions] will be used to provide better internet service,” he said.

While lack of student usage was a major factor in the decision to end automatic telephone service, the new construction on campus was also a key reason. The existing lines will be incorporated into the telephone systems in the new buildings for the schools of business and education.

“Our telephone system is very old and we can’t expand it,”

Carpenter said. “We’re opening several new buildings that need phones, so we’ve got to take them away from somewhere else.”

The College is also preparing a request for state funding for a new campus-wide telephone system by 2011.

In addition to the installation of hall telephones, the College plans on building a Distributed Antenna System to boost cell phone reception on campus.

“We have lousy cell phone service, especially for AT&T,” Carpenter said. “With a DAS, we’re looking at installing probably four smaller antennas around campus. They’ll go on top of the light poles at the stadium and places like that and they’ll all connect to one place. By the fall of ’09 we hope to have the system up.”

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CLASSIFIED

The Writing Resources Center in Tucker Hall 115A offers free one-on-one consultations to students at all stages of the writing process. The Writing Center, staffed by trained undergrad consultants, is open Monday — Thursday, 1-5PM. The WRC will officially open on February 4 at 1PM. For more information or to schedule an appointment online visit us at <http://www.wm.edu/as/wrc>

STAFF EDITORIALS

College cuts cord on dorm phones

Every once in a while, That Flat Hat’s office phone rings. Occasionally it’s a wrong number. More often, that phone lies silent while cell phone rings punctuate the office chatter. The fax machine remains a staff curiosity, a beast preserved from another age. At a time when 92 percent of students say they use cells as their primary means of communication, room phones have become an anachronism — like party lines, or copyrighted music (evidently). It comes as no surprise, then, that the school’s administrators have chosen to end phone service in the dorms. The decision only makes sense.

It represents the sole practical solution to a growing problem: The College’s phone system can no longer support additional lines. By discontinuing dorm service, the administration has for the time being averted an overhaul of the school’s two-decade-old infrastructure. Without the move, none of the buildings currently under construction could receive phone service. And given a choice between connectivity in the business and education schools — where it might serve some useful purpose — and connectivity in the dorms — where it might make ordering the occasional pizza a little easier — we favor the former. Chanello’s can call your cell. Or maybe they can send us a fax.

In our opinion ...

■ Bill Lawrence ’90, producer of the hit television comedy Scrubs, was on campus this week. As many soon-to-be graduates contemplate where they’ll head in June, Lawrence’s success offers a poignant reminder of the value of a College of William and Mary education. Of course, his story hinges on luck as well as aptitude, but those facts make his accomplishments no less remarkable. On campus to judge a student film competition, he spoke to several classes yesterday and in the Commonwealth Auditorium last night. We appreciate that accessibility and willingness to share in a wildly successful alum like Lawrence.

■ With the Superbowl only two days away, it gives us the chance to reflect on another alumnus: Mike Tomlin ’95, head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Not only is Tomlin the youngest man to coach a Superbowl team, but he’s one of only a handful of black coaches to lead their teams to the league championship game in nearly five decades of competition. That he should also be a graduate of the College further increases the significance of the event for members of the campus community. Even if his team doesn’t win this weekend, we recognize what an incredible contribution he’s made to the sport.

The staff editorial represents the opinion of The Flat Hat. The editorial board, which is elected by The Flat Hat’s section editors and executive staff, consists of Austin Wright, Jeff Dooley, Alice Hahn, Ashley Morgan and Andy Peters. The Flat Hat welcomes submissions to the Opinions section. Limit letters to 250 words and columns to 700 words. Letters, columns, graphics and cartoons reflect the view of the author only. E-mail submissions to fhopinions@gmail.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Albo supports mediocrity To the Editor:

Delegate David B. Albo’s (R-Fairfax) bill to increase in-state student enrollment is a laughably misdirected proposal during a time of financial instability and educational excellence.

Albo’s sentimental substantiation and pining for a time when “normal people could get in” to Virginia’s top public institutions are completely illegitimate both educationally and economically. For decades, Virginia’s public universities have strived to increase selectivity at all levels so that the state schools were not only first choices for Virginia residents but also for students across the country and indeed the globe.

By improving the profiles of the historically elite University of Virginia and the College of William and Mary, the state’s other public institutions such as James Madison University, University of Mary Washington, Virginia Commonwealth University, Radford University, George Mason University and others have been able to grow by

enrolling strong, passionate students who may not have been able to meet U.Va. or the College’s tight admission standards.

Albo’s expectation that the College satisfy in-state students by providing a private-school education at a more affordable cost is reasonable. However, his bill threatens this mission by necessitating a tuition hike for all in-staters, as well as probable tax increases.

To eliminate a significant population of out-of-state and international students is to compromise true diversity and force another financial burden upon the cash-strapped College, facilitating further budget cuts at a time when they already threaten quality.

Virginia offers public institutions with wonderful opportunities for middle-of-the-road students at an affordable price. Albo’s bill not only belittles these schools, but it threatens the quality of all of Virginia’s universities, and indeed the state itself.

— Pete Tosiello ’12

Delegate Albo Expands His Scope



By OLIVIA WALCH, FLAT HAT CARTOONIST

Free speech at College under fire? Not really.

Alexa McClanahan

FLAT HAT GUEST COLUMNIST



The Jan. 27 issue of The Flat Hat reported that as of Dec. 1, 2008, the College of William and Mary has been officially designated a “red light school” by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. William Creeley, director of legal and public advocacy for the organization, defines a red light school as a university with at least one policy that explicitly restricts freedom of speech. The College’s offense? Requiring that posters and signs meet “acceptable community standards.” Creeley condemns this clause as promoting self-censorship. According to FIRE, students

subsequently choose not to speak, thus creating a “chilling effect” that restricts First Amendment rights.

Call me hopelessly elitist, but I feel certain that students of the College can adequately define acceptable community standards. By no means do I support censorship, but I do value an open and inclusive academic environment. Do students at the College have the right to be bigoted, racist, homophobic or just plain obnoxious? Of course, but I don’t want to read about it on the way to class. In addition, the Student Handbook clearly outlines the right to distribute materials outside of College facilities, if being polite proves too difficult.

Besides simply coming across as petty, FIRE’s rating loses credibility when compared to the plight of universities overall. Two-thirds of the schools’ reviews were designated red-light schools, and 98 percent were deemed red- or yellow-light institutions. In response to this information, College President Taylor Reveley finally revealed a long-dormant sense of humor, deeming the College “in good company” with its co-offenders — at the top of the list are Princeton University, Cornell University, Brown University, Harvard

University and the University of Virginia.

In fact, FIRE seems more like a vehicle for unnecessarily dragging out social biases and prejudices than a constructive organization. Several of its past cases are questionable at best. For example, in 2000 FIRE rose to the defense of Tufts University’s Christian Fellowship, which refused to promote a homosexual individual to a leadership role, as the organization believed her sexual orientation violated the teachings of the Bible. To be honest, that just pissed me off. In my opinion, while the organization would be within its rights to espouse Bible teachings against homosexuality, open discrimination, in violation of university policy, would be rightly subject to judicial action.

In another, more recent instance, FIRE defended the Yale University chapter of Zeta Psi fraternity after it published a photo with brothers holding a sign that read “We love Yale sluts” in front of the university’s Women’s Center; the Women’s Center threatened to press charges against the group. FIRE responded with an ignorant editorial, complaining that “elementary schools might legitimately punish their young charges when they ‘use bad words’ on school grounds, but liberal universities should not.” Apparently sexual harassment and downright stupidity should feel right at home in one of the world’s most prestigious schools.

Of course, students at the College can identify incidents of the past few years in which the First Amendment probably was violated or at least severely warped. However, we’ve learned that bitching about the Sex Workers’ Art Show or Gene Nichol did not change any decision and that the College, as a public school desperately in need of funding, cannot operate as an isolated entity.

I think Reveley would be right to disregard FIRE’s designation and to continue evaluating the College’s free speech policies without the unwelcome input of a self-righteous organization. Yes, there may be room for improvement, but I don’t think it lies in one sentence (I checked) about posters. Drop that one in the recycling and move on.

Alexa McClanahan is a sophomore at the College.

Surry County coal plant will leave Virginia in the dust, and fly ash

Ben Schultz

FLAT HAT GUEST COLUMNIST



Late last year, the Old Dominion Electrical Cooperative (ODEC) began the process of constructing a massive new coal-burning power plant within 20 miles of campus in Surry County, Virginia. If local, state and national officials permit construction on this plant to begin, it will mean that all of the meaningful actions taken by faculty, staff and students in order to reduce the amount of hazardous pollutants in our environment would essentially be for naught. This should not be allowed to happen.

Coal-burning power plants of this scale emit millions of tons of greenhouse gas pollutants and are a major factor in the increasing rate of

climate change affecting the entire state. These plants are many times dirtier than other alternatives and are responsible for emitting noxious chemicals and fly ash into the environment.

The power companies behind this plant are working tirelessly to make this dirty coal plant seem like an acceptable option. They say that there is an absolute necessity for new sources of electricity, that the plant will revitalize the area’s economy, and that they are actually a green company. I urge you to be skeptical of such lofty claims.

A recent study by Abt Associates, an independent economic analysis firm, found these claims of dire need and unparalleled economic growth to be exaggerated. The study found that if the capital that would be dumped into these outdated coal technologies were instead directed to efficiency, the need for these expansions of

Virginia’s power infrastructure could be nearly eliminated. Under such a scenario, existing power outputs could still easily meet energy demands, thus avoiding undesired effects of coal-based energy production. The necessary actions to achieve this would create greater economic

The mercury produced by burning coal does not care that you have never been to Surry. If the plant is built the pollution will come.

opportunity than the short-term construction jobs and subsequent handful of positions at the power plant.

The ODEC’s idea that they can green-wash their activities is just silly. In recent statements, the company has claimed that because they buy marginal amounts of wind energy from

another company outside of Virginia and because the plant will use around 2 percent biomass (essentially ground-up trees) it is okay for them to build a plant that will create devastating environmental effects.

The company seems to hope that because the proposed site is in a rural area where most people in the surrounding area never go, the hazards of burning coal will remain out of sight and out of mind. But the mercury produced by burning coal does not care that you have never been to Surry. It does not care that there is a river between the proposed site and you. If the plant is built, the pollution will come.

This is not just a “not in my backyard” reaction; dirty coal-fired power plants are not a good idea anywhere. Because this one happens to be in our backyard, though, we now have a meaningful voice and opportunity to oppose it.

In the coming weeks and months at town hall meetings and other local gatherings, concerned members of our community will have the chance to explain to these power companies and the area’s elected officials that burning coal is not a smart choice for Virginia’s energy future.

Rising energy demand is certainly a problem that requires attention. If we continue to consume energy at an ever-increasing rate, there will forever be a disparity between what we consume and what we produce. We must address this now. We can do this through improvements in efficiency and advancements in technology, or we can continue to rely on the same failed methods.

Remember, we are not going to solve our 21st-century problems by relying on the 19th-century technology that created the problem in the first place.

Ben Schultz is a senior at the College.

Students struggle to obtain employment

The Career Center tries to aid students looking for work in current economic conditions

By ALEXANDER ELY
Flat Hat Chief Staff Writer

When I walked into Mary Schilling’s office in December, the Career Center’s director looked ecstatic; her face glowed with excitement. Through the generosity of Sherman Cohen, a Manhattan real estate developer who attended the College of William and Mary in 1938, the Career Center was planning a \$6 million facelift. The new facility, whose design was released to the media in early December, will overlook Zable Stadium and is expected to be completed by 2010, moving the Career Center’s staff out of its stuffy headquarters in the basement of Blow Memorial Hall.

In addition to the news of its impending renovation, the staff at the Career Center have been tackling the unenviable task of assisting students in navigating what is one of the worst job markets in decades. According to a report released by the annual United States Conference of Mayors meeting, the nation’s unemployment rate stands at 7.2 percent, and is expected to rise above 9 percent by 2010.

Predictably, the College is feeling the effects, most noticeably with on-campus recruiting, which provides jobs to 10 to 15 percent of graduating seniors each year, according to Schilling.

“This is a tough economy — probably the toughest since the depression,” Schilling said. “As with most colleges, we’ve seen a decrease in the number of employers coming to visit on campus. We have 10 to 13 percent less this year [than in the past].”

A number of factors contribute to this decrease. According to Schilling, there are fewer entry-level positions available in many companies. Numerous available jobs are given to students who have secured these positions through summer internships, which Schilling says makes those summer opportunities all the more important in this economy.

In response to the dire economic circumstances, the Career Center has responded by launching

new programs for students and by reaching out to the College’s vast alumni base. One such program is Hire WM, an electronic job-posting forum that connects College alums with students who may be interested in the same field. “We hope to generate an increasing number of job postings that are William and Mary-exclusive,” Schilling said.

One other program, the Job Search Boot Camp, a four-hour intensive workshop that took place Jan. 20, was mainly designed to get students moving in the right direction with tips

on career preparedness and job search.

“They mentioned that this is the first year they are holding the Job Search Boot Camp, and they started it mostly because of the economy,” Jennifer Peterson ’09 said. Peterson, like many students, is actively trying to get a jump on the job market.

Lauren Jones ’09, who attended the boot camp, said that the workshop addressed aspects of the job-search process that other career center

See CAREER page 7



MARAL NOORI-MOGHADDAM — THE FLAT HAT
Mary Schilling [LEFT] talks with a student at the Career Fair Networking Reception last night. Schilling, the director of the Career Center helps student find employment opportunities and explore their hiring potential. Often, the Career Center can give students contacts with alumni.

THAT GIRL

Service-loving Houston hunts the silver fox

By LAUREN BILLINGSLEY
Flat Hat That Girl Columnist

“Because Lord knows I need the caffeine,” Erin Houston good-naturedly says as she holds a warm paper cup of Earl Grey. She explains her lingering addiction acquired during the five weeks she spent studying at the University of Cambridge this summer. As we sit down at a corner table at the Daily Grind, it doesn’t take long for me to pick up on this petite senior’s buoyant personality. An English and government double major, Erin transferred here after her freshman year at Wake Forest University and has been in love with the College of William and Mary ever since. A member of Alpha Phi Omega fraternity, Alpha Chi Omega sorority and Every Two Minutes, Erin is passionate about service and social change but still sets aside time to have fun with her friends. I’m fortunate to hear what she has to say about women’s rights issues in Afghanistan, why she’s a self-proclaimed old soul and find out the identity of her not-so-secret CNN crush.

Do you have any nicknames?

I have an odd one. My mom calls me Mango. I don’t really know why. It just came out of being in the kitchen with her one day. My friends from high school all call me Brian because my middle name is O’Brian. **Erin O’Brian Houston sounds like a pretty Irish name.**

[Laughs.] It’s funny you should say this because I’m actually mostly German, but my mother would have me be Irish, so she made my name Irish. I am Irish, but only a little. **You mentioned you are very interested in social change. Do you have any specific ideas about what you’d like to do after graduation?**

I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life for a long time. But just over the break I read “Beggars for Change,” by Robert Egger, and it made me realize I want to work on housing and homelessness and sort of reform the nonprofit sector. I just

decided a couple weeks ago, and I’m going to do it.

Are you applying to jobs yet?

I’m applying to a bunch of jobs right now just to work in that area of the sector, but I want to sort of go bigger and create a safety net for all the different areas of the sector so nobody can fall through the cracks. I want to work in some way to make it a comprehensive approach, which is not usually the way it’s done.

Do you have a favorite academic building?

Blair. I studied over in Cambridge, and Blair reminds me a lot of the buildings there.

Did you enjoy your time spent studying in England?

Yeah, I did. It was a really different experience. I loved experiencing another culture; it was really enriching. I also took a course on “Shakespeare in Love” there, which is my favorite movie. We got to read all these different plays that were referenced. It’s a great movie, especially if you’re an English dork. **Are you reading anything at the moment?**

Yeah, I’m reading “Fear of Small Numbers,” an essay about minorities and genocide. It’s not light reading by any means, but it’s really interesting. It’s just about historical memory and the fear of being a minority and the majority’s fear of having a minority. I’ve studied Afghanistan pretty intensely; it’s kind of a weird academic fascination. I’ve studied a lot about women in Afghanistan since seventh grade after I read an article about treatment of women under the Taliban. I actually researched a paper on the topic last spring and presented with a professor and another student in Madison, Wisconsin at the Annual Conference on South Asia.

That’s very impressive. As for other literature, who is your favorite fictional character?

Elizabeth Bennet. I aspire to be like her in every way.

Are you into any television shows?

Not particularly. I enjoy “Lost,” but I can’t say I’m an avid watcher.

See THAT GIRL page 7



CAITLIN FAIRCHILD — THE FLAT HAT

CRITICAL CONDITION

Box office hits entertain dumb viewers

Mohammad Rahman

FLAT HAT CRITICAL
CONDITION COLUMNIST



“Marley and Me,” “Yes Man,” “The Day the Earth Stood Still,” “Four Christmases,” “Twilight” and “Paul Blart: Mall Cop.” What do all these films have in common? They all have graced the number-one position at the box office in the last two months and have an average of 40 percent fresh rating from the nation’s top critics at RottenTomatoes.com. Thank you America, for continuously propelling shitty movies to the big screen and making the public dumber after every viewing. Adding insult to injury, ‘Blart’ had the second-biggest opening ever in the month of January, behind last year’s surprise juggernaut “Cloverfield.”

Think back to “Cloverfield’s” intense marketing campaign — keeping the monster hidden and all? ‘Blart’ didn’t have that, unless you consider Kevin James riding a segway and sliding across the ground to bemarketing. It wouldn’t have been such a crime but these scenes weren’t the sole highlights of the film.

America, why do you watch such terrible movies?

The axiomatic reasoning among analysts and studio heads as to why Americans continuously catapult atrocious films to box-office glory is that Americans seek to escape when they go to the theaters. This is why films with depressing subject matter, or films that provide social and political commentary such as “Body of Lies,” “Revolutionary Road” and “W.,” do not do well at the box office. Further analysis shows that

See MOVIES page 7

Bill Lawrence opens up

Lawrence ’90 talks to The Flat Hat about his life at the College



JAMES NAPOLITANO — THE FLAT HAT
Bill Lawrence ’90 talks in the Sadler Center about this career and his life at the College.

By JEFF DOOLEY
Flat Hat Managing Editor

Two weeks after his graduation from the College of William and Mary, Bill Lawrence ’90 packed up and drove across the country to Los Angeles, California. The 22-year old Kappa Alpha fraternity brother from Connecticut plugged his way through the Hollywood grind for years before catching a writing gig on a new television program named “Friends.” The show took off, helping Lawrence realize his dreams of becoming a TV writer. Now 40, the “Scrubs” and “Spin City” creator returned to his alma mater this week as one of the College’s most successful alums. He took time out of his schedule to chat with us about his college days, making it in the business and not being able to knock ’em back like he used to.

The Flat Hat: What was your experience at the College like?

Lawrence: I had a blast. I still hang out with some of the guys I went to college with and some of the girls I went to college with. I think as a kid you get caught in this trap where everybody tells you that college is going to be the best four years of your life. And when you get here you’re like ‘When does the giant party start?’ But when you leave you’ll realize that it’s

one of the best times ever — and I’ve always felt that way about this place.

TFH: When did you realize you could make it as a television writer?

Lawrence: It took me about two years out there. The drag was I got hired on a new TV show called “Billy,” which was a sequel to “Head of the Class.” So I’m getting paid to write. And then in your head you go, ‘This is going to be a huge hit, I’m going to be doing this forever.’ And it got canceled after four episodes. So I was like, ‘Oh no.’ I did manage to keep getting work, but I was still living hand to mouth. I had to go back to tending bars and waiting tables on the side.

TFH: What’s it like being back here?

Lawrence: I will give you a piece of advice. When you’re 40, and you come back here thinking you’re going to drink beers like you did when you were 20, the answer is you can’t.

TFH: What advice would you give somebody trying to make it in the entertainment business?

Lawrence: If you can imagine yourself doing something else, go do something else. But if you’re so passionate about it that you can’t even dream of doing something other than being a writer or an actor, then you’ve got to suck it up and go for it and jump in. And don’t let how scary it is stop you.

Watch

Taken

After his daughter is kidnapped while abroad, a former CIA agent, played by Liam Neeson, uses his talents in an attempt to recover her from human traffickers



Star Sense

"I run around my house naked with heels all the time. It's so funny."

-Mary-Kate Olsen, in Harper's Bazaar, on her fashion choices at home



Download

Dead and Gone

T.I. feat. Justin Timberlake

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Directions: Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 through 9.

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Solution

HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP

Let's get re-acquainted
In the vein of fellow rapper Diddy, Kanye West would like to reintroduce himself, as Martin Louis the King, Jr. According to the Daily Star, he introduced new moniker, which pays tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr., during Paris fashion week. The longtime fan of Louis launched a red shoe he designed for the label. "I was forced to change my name," the challenger, known for his frequent blogging, said. "Address me as such." No word on whether he was being factious.



I'm not there
Heath Ledger's daughter will, in fact, receive her inheritance. After months of dispute, TMZ has that Matilda will receive the full \$10 million from his life insurance. The insurance company tried to renege on the policy on the terms that the late actor's death, which was ruled an accident, could have been a suicide. The company claimed that fact and the Joker's potential lie — his application claimed he never used illegal drugs — voided the policy.

Remixed and revisited
Looks like things are heating up between Madonna and Alex Rodriguez — or reheating, as the case may be. Page Six spotted the pair spending a weekend at Jerry Seinfeld's Hamptons home. Apparently, Madge needed the downtime after a recent upset: Following a covershoot for her latest album, she found unflattering shots had been leaked online. Because God knows we've never seen the aging diva look sub par.



Flavor of the month
Always the player, George Clooney has a new lucky lady friend — this one with her own television history. The lass, whose name hasn't been pinned down, has made the rounds through the game-show circuit. Though maybe not a staple yet, TMZ found that she's appeared in everything from "Hollywood Squares" to "Don't Forget the Lyrics" — and made hundreds of thousands of dollars at the gig.

— by Alice Hahn

Blockbusters sink at award shows

MOVIES from page 6

among other elements, marketing resulted in box office failure for most of these movies. Does that mean bad movies are easier to market? In a sense, yes. In the case of 'Blart,' all the studio had to do was play up on the fact that the goofy star Kevin James ("Hitch") had the IQ of a doughnut.

In fact, I could write a doctoral thesis about America's obsession with cheap, beer-drinking flicks. Don't believe it? Explain why "Big Momma's House" had a successful sequel. Yeah, that's what I thought.

All in all, low-IQ films are generally easier to market because they appeal to the lowest common denominator. But really, has the American audience actually sunk to that level?

So, what kinds of movies should Americans watch? Well, good ones, of course, that also manage to be entertaining. Wait, a movie can be good and entertaining? Yes, it can! Can it be thought-provoking as well? Yes, it can! While watching the majority of this year's Oscar contenders, it dawned on me that not only were many of these films

good but they were also very entertaining. Films, like "Slumdog Millionaire" and "Frost/Nixon," managed to make me jump out of my seat, cheering with sheer joy. Not only were they engaging but they also provided thought-provoking themes and social commentary that put the films in a grander scope. Many subscribe to the notion that the Oscars will always reward the purely serious films that only the arthouse crowd can truly appreciate. I completely disagree with that notion — take Robert Downey Jr.'s supporting actor nod for "Tropic Thunder," for example. While the Oscars do snub many quality flicks, generally, if a movie is considered a viable Oscar contender, it's because it's compelling and entertaining.

It's a travesty to hear stories of people, like that of Darren Aronofsky ("Requiem for a Dream"), who went through hell and high water to make their films. Aronofsky, who directed "The Wrestler," an ambitious story of an aging grappler dealing with the implications of the real world — faced many challenges in the creation of his film. He was mocked for refusing to cast Nicholas Cage ("National Treasure") as the lead in

his film and nearly lost his job for pushing Mickey Rourke ("Sin City"). As a result, he received a shoestring budget for a film that most likely was not going to be picked up by a major distributor. It was, however, and the film received two major acting nominations for best supporting actress (Marisa Tomei, "My Cousin Vinny") and best actor for Rourke. After having won a Golden Globe for his role, Rourke is a major contender for the Oscar.

It is a mystery why Americans ignore such quality films as "The Wrestler" and instead watch trash on the big screen. Part of the blame can be placed on the shoulders of studio executives who continuously greenlight zero-substance films that Americans will eat up. It has become a simple science where even a guy like me can pretty much guess spot-on how well a film will do — regardless of quality. So, I say, let's use our resources: Research to see what movies are bad and avoid them at all cost. America, can we stop watching bad movies? Yes, we can!

Mohammad Rahman is a Critical Condition Columnist. He is going to move to France where they know what good film really is.



COURTESY PHOTO — MOVIEWEB.COM
Paul Blart (Kevin James) brings humor to the big screen as a dense but still lovable mall cop. This no-brainer film is similar to many of the Blockbuster from the past year.

Job search leads to career center

CAREER from page 6

programs did not.

"They told us that we would probably need to come up with several backup plans, but I would have preferred they teach me how to sell myself so that I could be the strongest I can be for my number-one job," Jones said. "At the same time, I can understand that they want to give us realistic expectations."

The Career Center also must deal with the perception, held by some students, that the programs are quite helpful for those on the business track, while many students of different majors are left out in the cold.

"I think that the Career Center is very helpful for those people that want to follow one of the 'standard' paths for W and M grads," Jones said. "If you want to go work for a big consulting firm or investment banking firm you are pretty much set to go with them."

"If, on the other hand, you are following a non-traditional career path, you are kind of on

your own." Jones, a biology major with a process management and consulting minor in the business school, added that she wished the Career Center had someone who specialized in science-related jobs.

Schilling said that the main reason corporate employers are especially well-represented at College Career Fairs and are active in on-campus recruiting is because they have College recruitment departments within their companies. "Non-profits and smaller businesses don't have the same type of means," Schilling said.

She said that while the banking industry has been hit hard by the recession, jobs in consulting and accounting remain popular choices for students and many of these job opportunities remain unchanged from recent years. She also added that last fall's recruitment featured more government organizations than previous years.

Now more than ever, Schilling and others at the Career Center

are emphasizing that students must employ multiple strategies to find future employment opportunities.

"Don't expect to get a job just through campus recruiting," Schilling said. "It will be a year when a lot of students get only one job offer, and students need to realize that you may not get your dream job right away."

As the grim news keeps coming in — 90,000 jobs were lost worldwide last Monday alone — Schilling said that while the Career Center will "ride the wave with the recession," the most important thing for students to take advantage of past connections, as well as the alumni base of the College.

"Network, network, network," she said. "And just be thoughtful both about what you need and want in a job."

Despite a slightly smaller number of employers visiting than in past years, the Spring Career Fair takes place today in the Sadler Center from 12 to 4 and is open to all.

Informed senior worships CNN time

THAT GIRL from page 6

I'm a CNN junkie. I don't watch TV, just CNN.

What's your favorite CNN show?

"Anderson Cooper."

Any particular reason?

Uh ... silver fox? [Laughs.]

So many people say that... But it's so true! Starbucks or the Grind?

Starbucks, but only because I was a barista.

What's your favorite thing to get?

A tall, nonfat, half-with-syrup, peppermint mocha. Clearly a barista.

What would the soundtrack to your life have on it?

It would be mostly jazz. I love Ella Fitzgerald, Coltrane. I'm kind of an old soul in that way. I like a lot of the really old stuff, a lot of the Gershwin standards, [that] sort of thing.

What's something people around here probably don't know about you?

I have always had this inner wanting to be a sex ed teacher. It's important — not enough people talk about it. So many people are scared of it or have the wrong idea about it.

I saw Erin a few days later at the Office of Volunteer Services Alternative Spring Break Service Trip lottery. This service-savvy gal is already getting an opportunity to work for affordable housing by heading south during our week off to build houses with the Habitat for Humanity group in Charleston, South Carolina.

Even on her breaks, Erin uses her time to help other people.



CATLIN FAIRCHILD — THE FLAT HAT
Erin Houston spends her time around the College volunteering and trying to squeeze in CNN.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

FOOTBALL

Laycock appears on ESPN2's First Take

College of William and Mary Head Coach Jimmye Laycock appeared on ESPN2's First Take, with host Sage Steele at 10:15 a.m. this past Wednesday. Laycock talked about his relationship with Pittsburgh Steelers Head Coach Mike Tomlin, who played wide receiver under Laycock at the College from 1991 to 1994.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Zimmeck, Weigel earn All-American honors

Soccer Buzz magazine named College of William and Mary senior forward Claire Zimmeck third-team All-American. Freshman forward Diana Weigel received second-team freshman All-American accolades. Senior Dani Collins joined Zimmeck on the first-team Mid-Atlantic Region, while classmate Abby Lauer was selected to the third-team all-region squad. Zimmeck leaves the College with three All-American awards and two CAA player of the year honors thanks in part to 57 goals and 12 assists during her four-year career.

LACROSSE

College opens season second in CAA coaches poll

CAA coaches have picked the College of William and Mary to finish second in the league this season, according to the conference's preseason poll. The Tribe returns 10 starters to a squad that finished ranked 20th in the final IWLC A rankings and closed the season on a hot streak by winning eight of its last 11 games before losing the CAA title match. Towson University was picked to win the league with 49 votes to the Tribe's 38 and out-gained the Tribe in first place votes 7-1.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

Radloff collects swimmer of the week awards

College of William and Mary junior Katie Radloff earned ECAC swimmer of the week and CAA swimmer of the week honors this week thanks to her three-win performance against the University of Delaware Saturday. She won the 50-meter freestyle, the 100-m freestyle and the 100-m backstroke in the Tribe's dual-meet with the Blue Hens. Radloff has not lost a race this spring season and currently sits in third place on the College's all-time victory list with 62.

— By Chris Weidman

SCHEDULE

Fri., Jan. 30

MEN'S TENNIS

BYU — 8:30 a.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Christopher Newport Invitational — Newport News, Va. — 10 a.m.

Sat., Jan. 31

WOMEN'S TENNIS

TEXAS — 9 a.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Christopher Newport Invitational — Newport News, Va. — 10 a.m.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

MARYLAND-BALTIMORE COUNTY — 1 p.m.

MEN'S TENNIS

CLEMSON OR ELON — 4:30 p.m. (Match-up pending earlier results)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

GEORGIA STATE — 5 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 1

WOMEN'S TENNIS

NORTH CAROLINA OR MICHIGAN — 10 a.m. (Match-up pending earlier results)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

GEORGIA STATE — 2 p.m.

BASKETBALL

Turnover prone



GREG MLYNARCYK — THE FLAT HAT

Towson's Robert Nwankwo wrestles the ball away from Tribe freshman guard Kendrix Brown.

Sloppy play catches up with Tribe

By CHRIS WEIDMAN
Flat Hat Assoc. Sports Editor

TRIBE 56, TOWSON 69

Twenty-two turnovers proved insurmountable for the College of William and Mary (6-14, 1-9 CAA) in a sloppy 69-56 loss to Towson University (8-14, 3-7 CAA) Wednesday night at Kaplan Arena. The Tribe has now lost six consecutive conference games.

The Tigers emerged from the game with 15 steals, out-hustling a sluggish College squad, which was outscored 22-7 in points off turnovers and now holds sole possession of last place in the CAA. The Tribe also played without starting junior guard David Schneider, who missed the contest due to a sprained right ankle sustained midway through practice Tuesday.

"The turnovers are the difference in the ball game," Head Coach Tony Shaver said. "We had three guards who had a total of 14, 15 turnovers... We've been really good defensively all year long, and we scored 36 first-half points, but we couldn't stop them. It's always one item that seems to hurt us right now."

Despite the Tribe's mismanagement of the basketball, the College trailed by only one point at the break and found itself within the same margin with 16:12 left in the second half. Over the next four minutes, however, the Tigers extended their lead to seven, courtesy of five Tribe turnovers.

Towson's lead grew to 56-46 with just under nine minutes remaining, and the Tigers cruised relatively unscathed to the victory.

"[The loss] was a combination of their pressure and also [our] turnovers," freshman forward Quinn McDowell said. "It's really deflating when you're not able to get shots on the offensive end, and they start running down on the other end and they're getting easy shots."

Early foul trouble limited McDowell to nine first-half minutes, but the freshman remained poised and rallied to collect ten of the College's 20 second-half points to finish the game six of seven from the field for a career-high 16 points and six rebounds.

"[McDowell is] the one guy right now that finishes inside," Shaver said. "He's 6'5," but he's our best finisher."

In addition to the sloppy ball handling, the College failed to find its stroke at the foul line, hitting only eight of 20 attempts and missing five within the first five minutes of the game. Such misses prevented the Tribe from extending an early 12-4 lead. Towson eventually erased the Tribe's lead and tied the game at 21-21 with 9:22 remaining in the first half.

The Tribe's 56.5 percent shooting in the first half propelled the team to its third-highest scoring first half all season. Unfortunately for the College, its shooting cooled off in the second half, during which the Tribe made only seven field goals.

Junior forward Danny Sumner finished with a game-high 19 points and five rebounds.

The Tribe returns to Kaplan Arena this Saturday to take on Georgia State University (5-16, 3-7 CAA) at 5 p.m.

Poor ball handling extends College's skid to five games

By JACK LAMBERT
Flat Hat Staff Writer

TRIBE 61, VCU 75

The College of William and Mary fought for 40 minutes Thursday night, and, despite 19 points and 14 rebounds from junior center Tiffany Benson, the Tribe (10-9, 3-5 CAA) fell short against Virginia Commonwealth University 75-61.

"This is, like, the fifth loss in a row," Benson said. "We're trying to win. I'm not thinking about closeness. I'm thinking about winning — actually winning a game."

The fact that the College is so close makes it all the more frustrating. With 7:46 remaining in the second half, junior guard Kelly Heath, who finished with 11 points, brought the Tribe within four — the closest margin in over 11 minutes.

But VCU's 6'5" center Quanitra Hollingsworth answered, scoring eight of her 16 points in the remaining minutes to lead the Rams (16-4, 6-2 CAA) to victory. Forced to the bench with foul trouble in the first half, the Tribe had no answer for Hollingsworth inside in the second half, especially when Benson picked up her fourth foul at the 8:15 mark.

"We played really hard," Benson said. "Just down the stretch, our toughness went down the drain in terms of boxing out, and getting the defensive rebounds, and let-

ting them crash the boards on the offensive end."

The Tribe allowed VCU to corral 16 offensive rebounds, including one which Hollingsworth recovered after a missed free throw by La'Tavia Rorie with 1:07 left in the game. Her putback extended the Ram's lead to 73-61. Against a VCU frontline, which averaged above 6 feet, the Tribe was fortunate to be out-rebounded only 43-37.

Despite its small size, the Tribe got to the free throw line, but only shot 56 percent from the charity stripe.

Benson's development from the free throw line has accompanied her improving offensive game. She shook free of Hollingsworth for turn-around jumpers on a couple occasions Thursday.

"I've never really [done] that before," Benson said. "This was the first game where I was making them consistently."

Benson forced Hollingsworth into foul trouble in the first half, drawing the big center's second foul at the 11:25 mark. With the smaller 6'2" Courtney Hunt guarding her, Benson tallied 14 points before the break and, along with freshman guard Janine Aldridge, who finished with eight points, cut the VCU lead to 31-25 at the half.

Senior forward finished Dani Kell 11 points and five rebounds.

The Tribe hosts Georgia State University (11-8, 3-5 CAA) Sunday at 2 p.m. at Kaplan Arena.



PHILIP DELANO — THE FLAT HAT

Junior forward Tiffany Benson

GYMNASTICS PREVIEW 2009

Tribe ready for action

By MATT POMS
Flat Hat Assoc. Sports Editor

After arriving at the College of William and Mary in 1995, women's Head Coach Mary Lewis took four years to build her program into a regional powerhouse. From 1999 until 2003, the Tribe won four ECAC championships, and Lewis was twice named conference coach of the year.

However, as Lewis enters her 15th season at the helm, the College has lost some of their earlier momentum, repeatedly falling short of the pinnacle of ECAC gymnastics with a series of ill-timed mistakes and a tendency to wilt under pressure.

This year, with a veteran squad comprised of seven seniors, the Tribe is prepared to regain the

ECAC trophy.

"The last time we won was 2003, so it will have been six years come March," Lewis said. "We have a team that's strong enough and can compete for it."

Among the biggest challenges for Lewis will be filling the void left by graduated seniors Stevie Waldman and Tricia Long. Collectively, the duo accounted for eight of the Tribe's 24 routines a season ago, while also competing in the all-around.

In 2009, the Tribe will turn to the leadership of senior captains Becca Bacharach and Lauren Jackson, while relying on reigning ECAC gymnast of the week sophomore Dina McNaughton and freshman Kristin Milardo to anchor the squad.

"I think our team is probably closer than we've ever been," Bacharach said. "We have a good group of people, and I think we have the most potential we've had [in the last four years]."

College eyes NCAAs

By KEVIN LONABAUGH
The Flat Hat

After finishing 11th in the NCAA Championships last season, the College of William and Mary men enter this campaign poised to improve

and David Locke, from a team that finished last year with a 26-12 ledger, the College has four seniors on the roster and is focused on combining this experience with solid talent from underclassmen to better last year's successes.

The College enters the season maintaining its priority of executing routines, after the Tribe placed ninth among squads for its execution scores at last season's NCAA Championships.

The addition of three freshmen, Dan Melzar, Jonathan Prohov and Stephen Duetsch, to a roster that boasts 14 returning gymnasts and longtime Head Coach Cliff Gauthier, adds depth to a young Tribe squad.

The Tribe finished second in its first competition Saturday at the Navy Open in Annapolis, Md.

The College's first home meet is the State Open Feb. 8. The Tribe also hosts the 12th-ranked United States Naval Academy and no. 2 Pennsylvania State University March 8.



COURTESY PHOTO — W&M SPORTS INFORMATION

Senior Lauren Jackson



FILE PHOTO — THE FLAT HAT

Senior James Prim

upon their performance from a year ago — and sporting an eighth place in the preseason national rankings.

Despite graduating three top seniors, Aaron Ingram, Andrew Hunt